



## City of Austin/Travis County

### MEDIA ADVISORY

Austin/Travis County Emergency Operations Center



---

**For immediate release:**

June 02, 2014

**Hays County Contact:** Laureen Chernow, 512-393-2296 (office)

**Travis County Contact:** Lisa Block, 512-854-7954 (office)

**Williamson County Contact:** Connie Watson, 512-943-1663 (office)

**American Red Cross Contact:** Bristel Bowen, 512-929-1237 (office)

**City of Austin (HSEM):** Jacob Dirr, 512-974-0470 (office)

## **Experts: Central Texas not immune to Atlantic Hurricane Season, running June 1 to Nov. 30**

---

Even though Central Texas doesn't have beach front property, the public should still gear up for the annual Atlantic Hurricane Season, running June 1 to Nov. 30.

Regional emergency planners and the American Red Cross want to remind residents as far inland as San Marcos, Austin and Georgetown they still can be affected by major hurricanes.

Hurricanes can produce severe weather deep into Texas, creating damaging hail, tropical storm-force winds, lightning strikes, tornados, flash flooding and electric power disruptions. Reverberating coastal storm winds can also stoke inland wildfires.

It is also inevitable that the region will host Gulf Coast evacuees who flee

hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

Central Texas government partners, together with the American Red Cross, maintain the Capital Area Shelter Hub Plan to house evacuees. The shelters are located in high schools and middle schools in Travis, Williamson, and Hays counties. Additionally, the City of Austin maintains an agreement to accept evacuees from City of Galveston and Galveston County who do not have their own transportation.

In extreme conditions, Central Texas can house as many as 25,000 coastal evacuees in 75 shelters.

Residents can do their part by preparing themselves for severe inland weather, and familiarizing themselves with ways to help their fellow Texans, as noted below.

### **Preparedness**

Residents can prepare by creating a basic emergency kit for each member of their family, to survive for at least three days if an emergency or disaster occurs. More information can be found at <http://www.ready.gov/basic-disaster-supplies-kit>.

Additionally, area residents should be aware that Central Texas is nicknamed "Flash Flood Alley." Resident should investigate if they live in a floodplain and have a plan to respond to flash flooding. City of Austin residents can explore floodplains at [www.atxfloodpro.com](http://www.atxfloodpro.com) online.

Residents in Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis and Williamson counties can also sign up for emergency notification by voice, email, SMS text for emergencies and non-emergencies near where they live and work. Visit [wireless.emergency.org](http://wireless.emergency.org)

## **Victim Assistance**

To support your community and help affected families, there are many ways to get involved.

People can **make a monetary donation** to local American Red Cross disaster relief or **become a Red Cross disaster volunteer** today so you're prepared to step into action immediately when the time comes.

Other volunteer opportunities are available through the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). To locate a CERT team in your community, visit <http://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams>.